

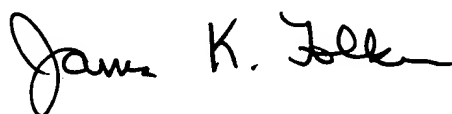
REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 16 and 17 have been allowed and that Claims 4-6 and 9-11 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of their associated base claims and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended Claims 4 and 9 into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4 and 9, and associated dependent Claims 5, 6, 10 and 11, should all be in condition for allowance.

Since all of the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
James K. Folker
Registration No. 37,538

September 25, 2003

Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080

Customer No. 24978

K:\2500\65080\amd-b.doc